(b) Yes, most of these 886 drugs belong to the doctor/chemist promoted generics.

(c) The list of 886 medicines are part of the generic medicines having 5 to 7% masrket share, and are sold through trade channels without involving medical representatives.

(d) in the DPCO '95 there is no provision to make pharma industry-doctor relationship more transparent and patient friendly.

Affordable medicines

†1988. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that provision of healthcare and medicines at affordable rates is amongst the priorities of Government;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard from April, 2004 to 31st January, 2007, year-wise;

(c) the names of medicines alongwith the percentage by which their prices has been reduced; and

(d) the achievements made in this regard during the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Drug Policies of the Government as announced from time to time are directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices. Focus on primary healthcare and making life saving and essential drugs at reasonable prices to the poor are among the key objectives of the National Commom Minimum Programme (NCMP). Keeping this in view Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006 has been prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders including drug industry associations, and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Commom Minimum Programme to make available life saving and essential drugs at reasonable prices to the poor. The draft Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and has referred the matter to a Group of Ministers (GoM). A GoM has since been constituted and would be making its recommendations to the Cabinet.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) A compilation of a list of 886 such medicines, whose prices were voluntarily agreed to be reduced by eleven companies is available on this Department's Website **www.chemicals.gov.in.** It has also been placed in the library of the Parliament. The list covers formulations in all dosage forms such as tablets, capsules and syrups, etc. and they find usage in the treatment of a large number of diseases. The medicines covered are antibiotics, cough syrups, painkillers as well as those used during the surgical operations, for the cure of the infectious diseases and for the treatment of hypertension etc.

In addition to this since inception NPPA has fixed or revised prices of 4854 scheduled formulation packs. Of these, prices of 2298 scheduled formulations has been revised downward and prices of 844 scheduled formulation have been revised upward. In respect of 1595 scheduled formulations packs, prices have been fixed for the first time and in117 cases, there has been no change.

The details of price movement from the year 2004-05 to 15th February, 2007 are as follow:

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 upto 15th Feb 2007	
	Nos	%age	Nos	%age	nos	%age
Price Increased	42	12.65	99	9.72	118	12.46
Price Decreased	133	20.06	398	39.10	298	31.46
Price fixed for the time	144	43.37	480	47.15	507	53.54
No change in prices	13	3.98	41	4.03	24	2.54
TOTAL:	332	100	1018	100	947	100

Monitoring of prices is an ongoing exercise undertaken by the NPPA. During such monitoring 26 companies have reduced the price in respect of 46 non-Scheduled formulation packs by 0.5% to 34.62%.

Authority for fixing medicine prices

†1989. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.